

Pannal Area Community-led Plan



Introduction

Our **Community-led Plan** is based upon a factual survey of residents' views as to what is needed for the future of the community over the next few years. It includes physical, organisational and social developments and improvements.



Why do we need a Community-led Plan?

Initially, Pannal Village Society felt the need to understand better what residents liked and disliked about our area and how it might be improved. Within a few months of setting up a Steering Group to take it forward, steps were put in hand for the creation of a Parish Council for the Pannal area. If a Parish Council is formed and elected in May 2016, the Community-led Plan will provide a ready-made work programme for the Council over its first couple of years in partnership with the Village Hall, local councillors, the Borough and County Councils, as well as local bodies like Pannal Primary School and the local churches.

What you told us

The response to the questionnaire, circulated to the 900 households in the area in January 2015, was exceptional with a near **50% return**. By any standards it is a remarkably good response and provides robust evidence on which to develop the Plan. The answers you gave in the questionnaire are described in this document together with an Action Plan which lists those developments and improvements generally considered most important along with how they might be taken forward and over what timescale.

Champions required

Although many of the actions listed in the Plan will be the responsibility of the Parish, Borough or County Councils, there are several which will rely on a champion coming forward from the community who has the enthusiasm and determination to deliver it.

You have said the Pannal Area is wonderful. It is up to all of us not just to preserve it but to make it even better, so Pannal Village Society would welcome hearing from anyone who is willing to become a champion for any of the relevant items listed in the Action Plan. Contact Peter Stretton on p.stretton@ntlworld.com or the Secretary, Dorothy Little on dorothylittle@tiscali.co.uk

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ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan is based on the results of the **Pannal Area Questionnaire, February 2015**. In drawing it up, the Steering Group has focussed on actions that, in its view, might realistically be achieved.

It will be noticed that delivering some of the actions relies on **"champions"** coming forward from the community.

Abbreviations: HBC - Harrogate Borough Council; NYCC - North Yorkshire County Council; PVS - Pannal Village Society; PVH - Pannal Village Hall.

Parish Council - HBC will take a decision in October on whether to approve the creation of a Parish Council for the Pannal area. If it is not approved, some of the actions in the Plan will fall to PVS to pursue, and others to local councillors.

Challenge	No.	Action	How to pursue it	Timescale	Delivery organisation
Planning and Development					
Housing - preserving the village rural setting, its separation from Harrogate, the Green Belt and limiting future development	1	Produce a Neighbourhood Plan	Future Parish Council to adopt as one of its first major tasks	Produce by end 2017	Parish Council
Traffic, Parking, Road Maintenance					
Traffic impact from existing and planned housing developments in N & W Harrogate	2	Assess impact against the capacity and suitability of roads through village	Residents and Parish Council to persuade NYCC to undertake necessary studies	Complete studies by early 2016	NYCC
Park & Stride for Pannal Primary School	3	Implement Park & Stride from School to Council-owned land behind St Robert's church	HBC to allocate land for parking & obtain access through church car park	Immediate	HBC / School / local councillors / church
Parking Permit scheme	4	Explore parking scheme to discourage commuter parking on roads close to station	Parish Council to consult with residents	2016	Parish Council / HBC
State of local roads	5	Urgent repair of most "distressed" roads	All to alert NYCC to pot-holes via https://www.fixmystreet.com/reports/Harrogate Local councillors to obtain NYCC commitment	Immediate	Residents and road users / NYCC
Winter gritting	6	Winter gritting of Walton Park	Local councillors to obtain NYCC commitment	Immediate	NYCC
Speeding Traffic	7	Undertake surveys on Church Lane / Main Street & Burn Bridge Road / Yew Tree lane with follow-up enforcement action	Local councillors have initiated this survey work via NYCC, surveys have been completed and enforcement actions are planned; consider also, if necessary, addition of 20mph detector signs	Ongoing	NYCC, Police, & local councillors
Street Lighting	8	Improve street lighting at junction of Main Street / Church Lane and at junction of Hilltop Rd / BurnBridge Rd	Parish Council to identify "dark stretches" & if necessary fund improvements	2016	Parish Council / NYCC
Public Transport, Cycling, Walking					
Review zebra crossing on Main Street for Pannal School	9	Look at alternatives of moving crossing or substituting traffic calming & removing crossing	PVS/Parish Council to press NYCC	2016	NYCC
Cycle paths	10	More cycle paths	Seek a "champion" to create local cycling group to survey the area and identify potential cycle routes and paths	End of 2015	HBC / NYCC
"No Cycling" signs	11	Strongly discourage cycling on path from duck pond to Malthouse Lane, and snicket between Crimple Meadows & Malthouse Lane	Erect more signs and renew existing signs - PVS to press HBC via local councillors	Late 2015	HBC
110 Bus	12	Secure a more regular & relevant service	PVS/Parish Council to liaise with local councillors' campaign	2016	NYCC / Bus operator

Challenge	No.	Action	How to pursue it	Timescale	Delivery organisation
Environment					
Dog fouling	13	a) More bins b) Publicity campaign to encourage all dog owners to clean up and make use of bins	PVS to identify where more bins are needed, Parish Council to fund emptying of extra bins and work with Borough Council's Dog Warden Service on a publicity campaign	Immediate	HBC / Parish Council
Improving village image	14	Repair turning circle at Co-op / Garage, seek removal of A-board signs on footpaths	PVS to progress	Immediate	Various
Preserve sites and features of natural beauty and potential scientific interest	15	Identify such sites and suggest actions/existing organisations to partner in preservation or restoration activities	Seek a 'champion' to lead the project	Immediate	Parish Council, HBC & National agencies
Health & Well-being: Support for elderly, disabled or lonely residents					
Good neighbour scheme	16	Organisation of drop-in visits, shopping, lifts to hospital/day care	Seek a 'champion' to form a Good Neighbour group of volunteers		New local volunteer group
(a) Lunch Club (b) Afternoon tea session	17	Encourage expansion of lunch club at St Robert's and afternoon tea sessions at Methodist Church	St Robert's and Methodist Churches to publicise more widely that they welcome non-parishioners	Ongoing	St Robert's Church, Methodist Church
Social coffee morning	18	Give support to newly started venture in Village Hall, possibly by linking with other activities e.g. reading group, photography, or art and craft displays	More publicity e.g. add to Village Hall Calendar of Events; seek entry in The Link. Seek a 'Champion' to lead Coffee Morning project	Ongoing	PVH
Community Activities & Facilities					
Football facilities incl. all-weather pitch	19	Delivery of HBC scheme on field designated for sports adjacent to Crimple Hall	PVS/local councillors to liaise with HBC & the Junior Football Club which secures lease of the land	Ongoing	HBC & Junior Football Club
Tennis Courts	20	Build 2 tennis courts, either on Crimple Meadows Recreation Ground or as part of action 19, or Dunlopillo development	Seek a tennis 'champion' to take forward		
Volunteers Register	21	Compile a register of volunteers with particular skills and interests	Seek a champion to organise a scheme under auspices of future Parish Council	2015	PVS / Parish Council
Village Hall activity volunteers	22	Attract more volunteers to run regular events for young and old	Ongoing campaign	Immediate	PVH
Allotments	23	Secure land behind Pannal Green from HBC for allotments	a) PVS to form an Allotment Society and to meet with HBC to secure land; b) Parish Council to develop the site	a) summer 2015 b) end 2016	a) PVS / HBC b) Parish Council
Create exhibition space for local art	24	To be provided at the the Village Hall	To be incorporated into the New Entrance Hall as part of the Phase Three works	2016/17 with S106 monies from Dunlopillo	PVH
Communications					
Publicity of all events happening in the area	25	Improve awareness of area events/activities	Have a weekly "what's on" list published on PVS & PVH websites, on Noticeboards and with links to Facebook/Twitter	Immediate	PVS & PVH publicity officer (Howard West)
Village Hall publicity	26	Create a database of "Friends"	Use given email addresses from the Village Questionnaire to send regular updates of Village Hall activities	In progress	PVH
Internet	27	Improve broadband speeds	'Champion' needed to take forward		
Mobile reception	28	Improve mobile reception	'Champion' needed to take forward		
Other suggestions requiring volunteers to take forward: Badminton and/or Table tennis in Scout Hall Bowls Yoga Dancing Local nature reserve					

PANNAL AREA COMMUNITY-LED PLAN RESULTS OF QUESTIONNAIRE

There was an exceptionally good, **48%**, response rate to the Pannal Area Community-led Plan questionnaire, distributed in February 2015. (Market researchers and survey professionals consider a response rate approaching **50%** very high). This was the first indication that the residents of Burn Bridge, Pannal and Walton Park (referred to here as the Pannal Area) are highly involved and concerned for the future of their area.

Each of the 914 households received a questionnaire. The total returned was 464 (389 paper version, 75 online). There were 335 (72%) representing whole households; 129 (28%) were from individuals. Overall, the total number of individuals represented in the survey was 1077, out of a population of 2,235 (2011 census).

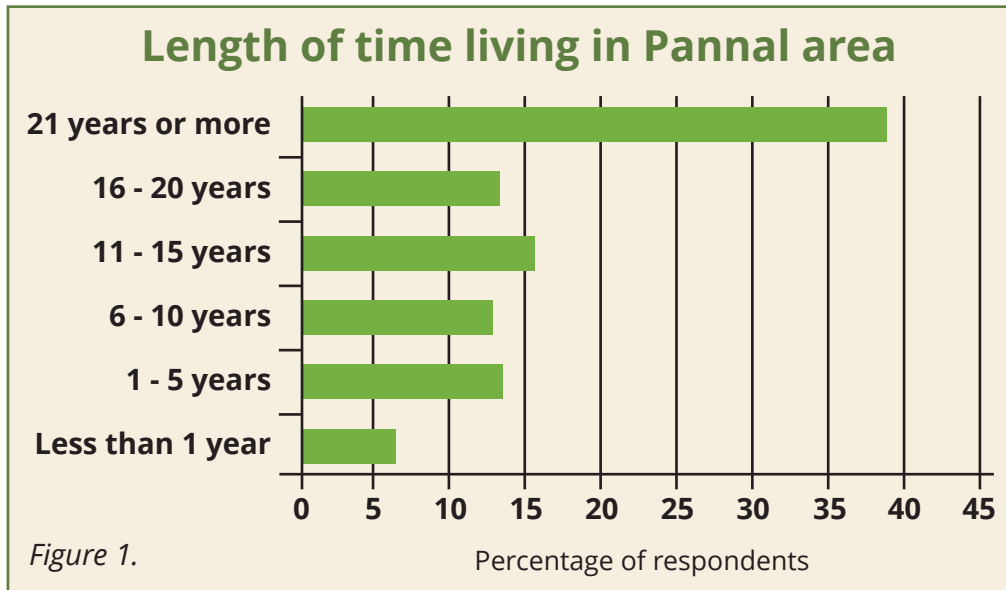


COMMUNITY PROFILE

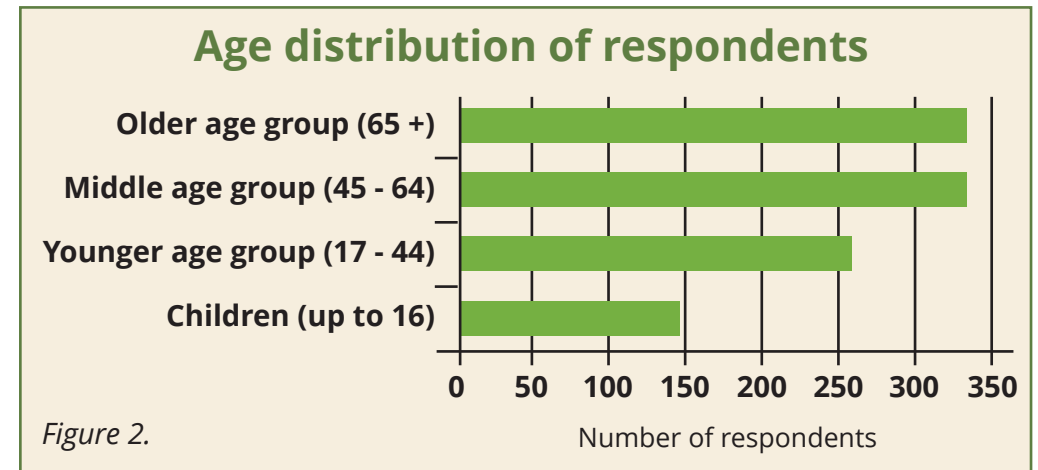
Of the total respondents: 36% live in Burn Bridge; 47% live in Pannal; 17% live in Walton Park

Responses showed that over half the residents in our community have lived here more than 16 years, **39%** for 21 years or more (Figure 1).

This was the same for all three parts of the area: Burn Bridge, Pannal village and Walton Park.



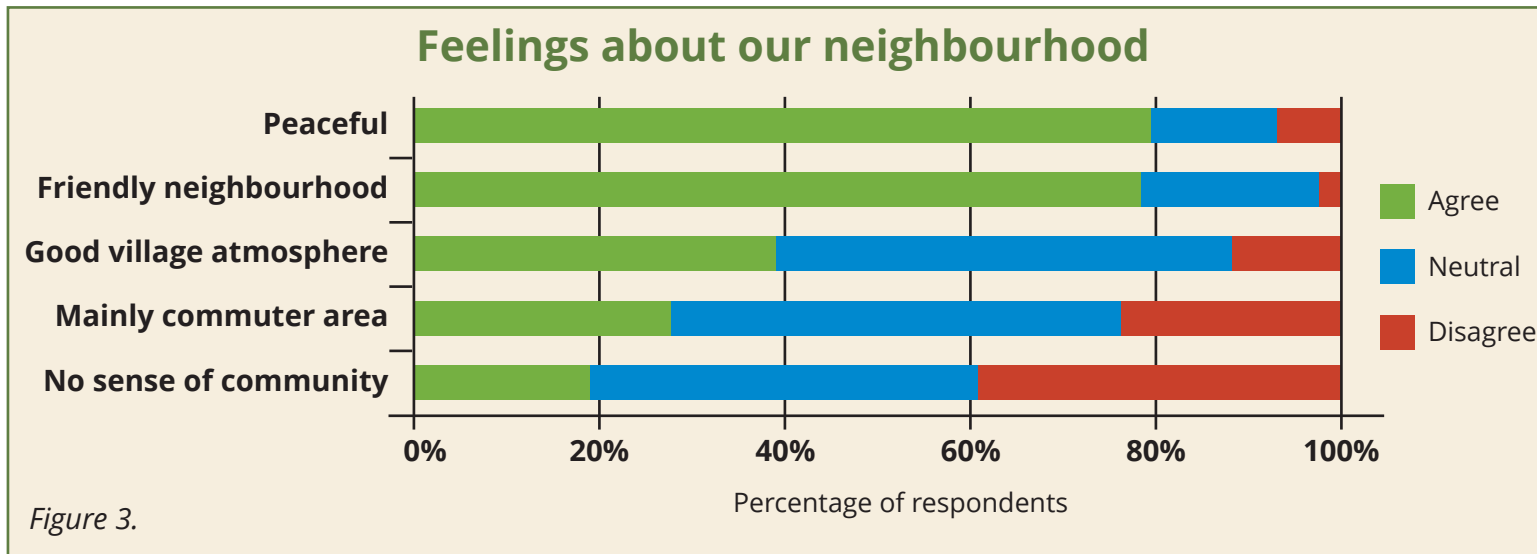
The age range is wide:



“People choose to live in Pannal to enjoy a true village atmosphere and every effort should be made by us all to maintain this.”

HOW YOU VIEW YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

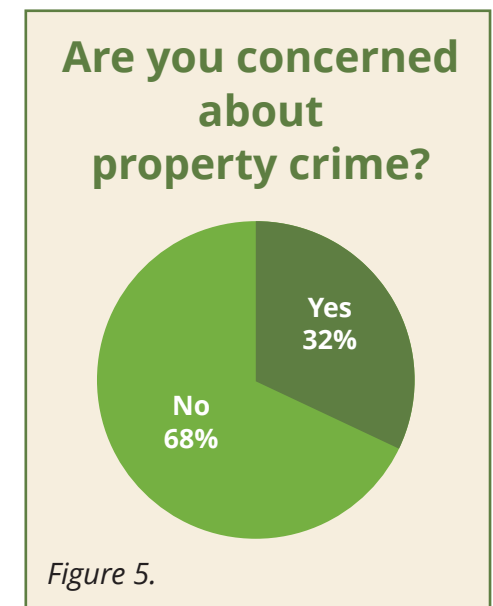
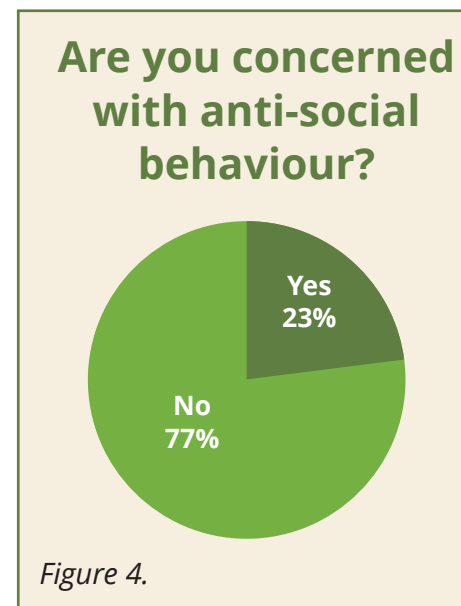
There was a high level of contentment reflected in the responses to this section.



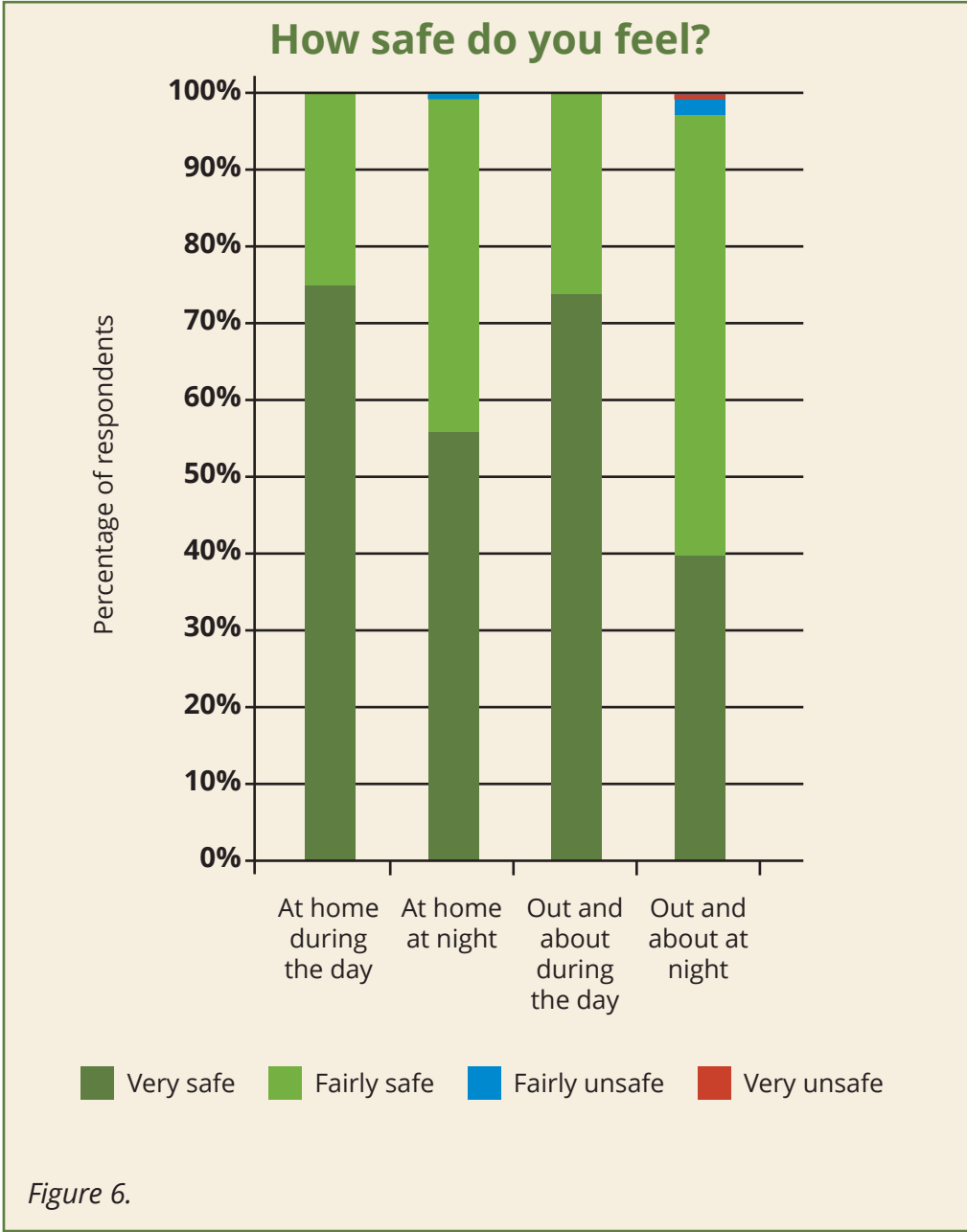
“Overall this is a brilliant place to live. Any changes should be minimal.”

Negative views of life in the Pannal area are relatively minor. Most people are not concerned about anti-social behaviour (Figure 4). Of those who expressed concerns, indiscriminate parking on pavements (58%) and dog fouling (48%) are the main irritations. Speeding cars, litter, graffiti, noise from children by day and teenagers by night were also mentioned in individual comments.

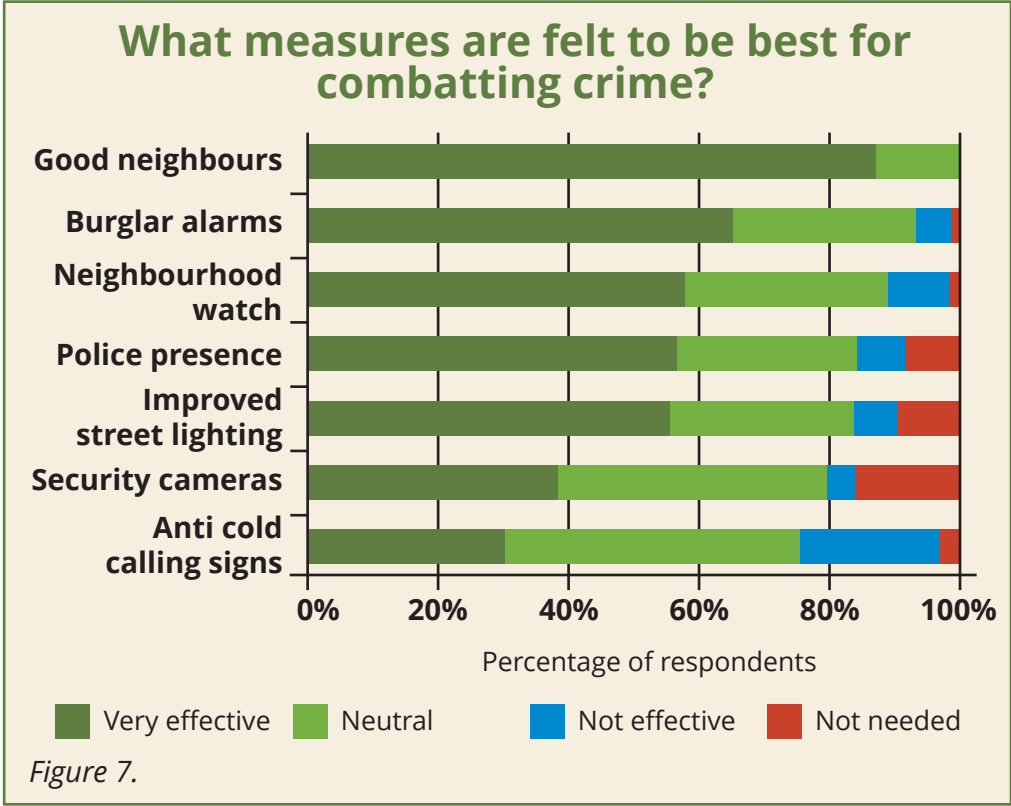
Similarly, property crime is not seen as a problem for 68% of residents (Figure 5). Concern was expressed at risk of break-ins rather than actual burglaries or theft from cars.



When asked how safe or unsafe people feel personally in their neighbourhood, **99%** of residents said they feel very or fairly safe at home or out in daytime, **91%** of residents said they feel very or fairly safe at home or out at night:



When asked what measures were felt to be most effective in combatting crime, the single largest response was "good neighbours" (Figure 7).



When asked how well facilities and services in the area meet needs:

How well do local facilities and services meet your needs?

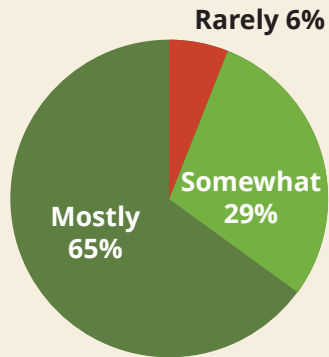


Figure 8.

Asked to write down which services and facilities they most valued:

- 55%** said the Post Office
- 48%** said local shops
- 19%** specified the doctors surgery and **18%** the dentist surgery

Also valued were the churches, train and bus services, and the garage. The pub was valued by the Burn Bridge residents.

When asked what facilities and services were lacking:

- 30%** said a pub, particularly in Pannal and Walton Park
- 22%** specified adequate public transport
- 8%** expressed a need for a café/restaurant

“What I like about the area: The community feel – pub, post office, village hall and its events, train station, hairdressers, doctors, church beer festival, dentist, gym... it’s all on the door step to be used and cherished.”

When asked for reactions to possible new Village Hall activities, responses showed:

New village hall activities

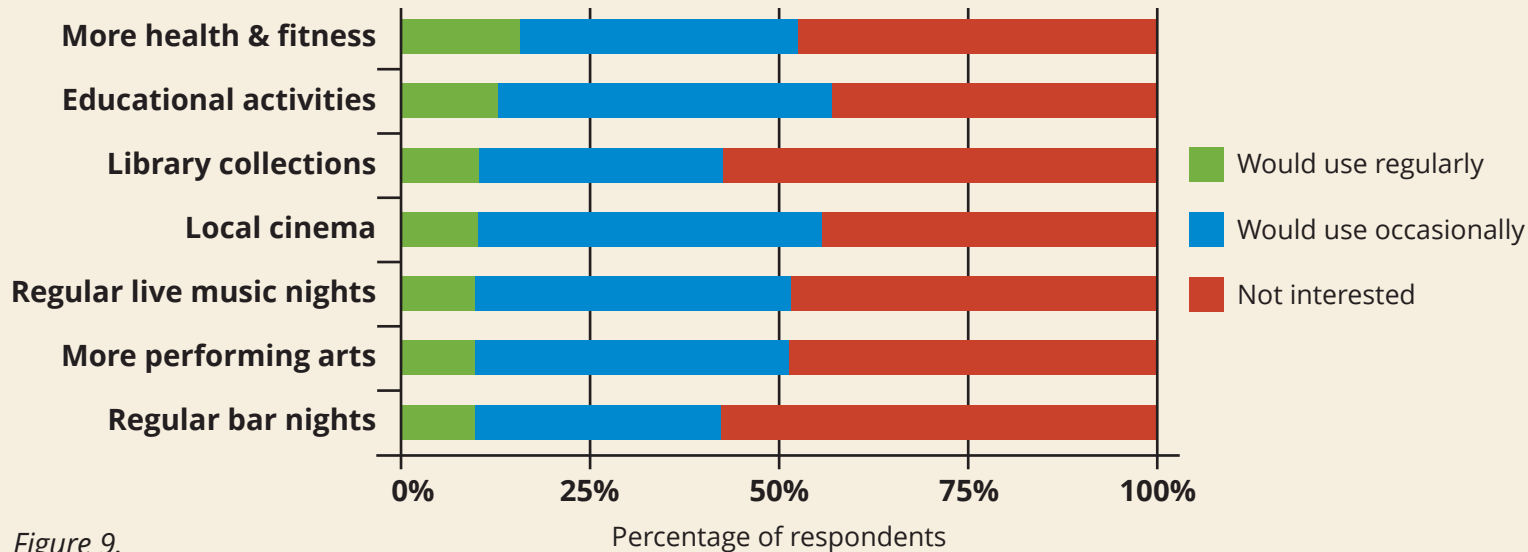


Figure 9.



TRAFFIC, PARKING, ROAD MAINTENANCE

By far the greatest concerns for most survey respondents are traffic density, inconsiderate and inadequate parking and poor road maintenance.

When asked about their regular commute:

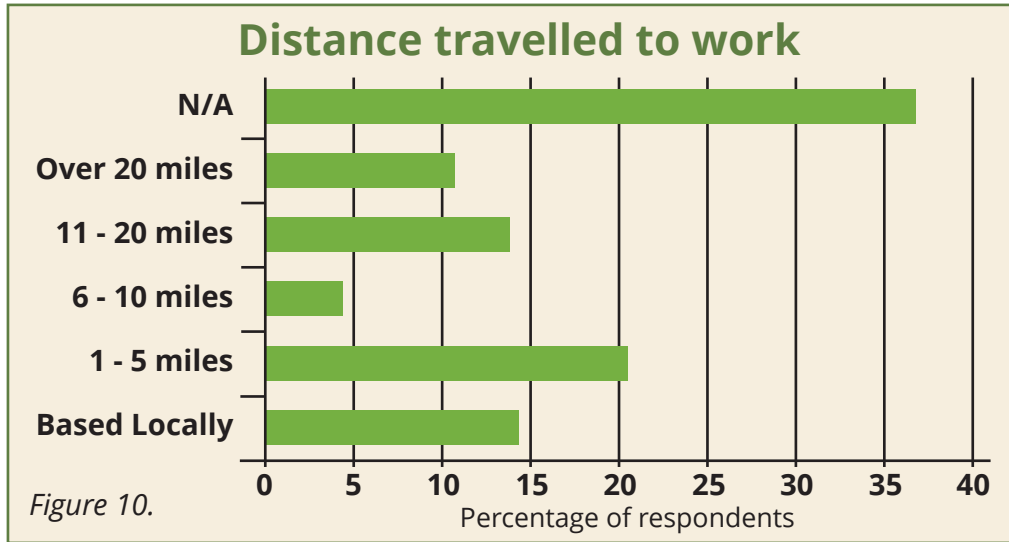


Figure 10.

When asked about factors creating traffic speed and density, the main concern was people driving into and through the area.

By far the majority, **73%**, of these journeys are made by car (4 people car-share), **14%** are made by train, **8%** by bus and a small number of residents use bicycles, taxi, or motor bike.

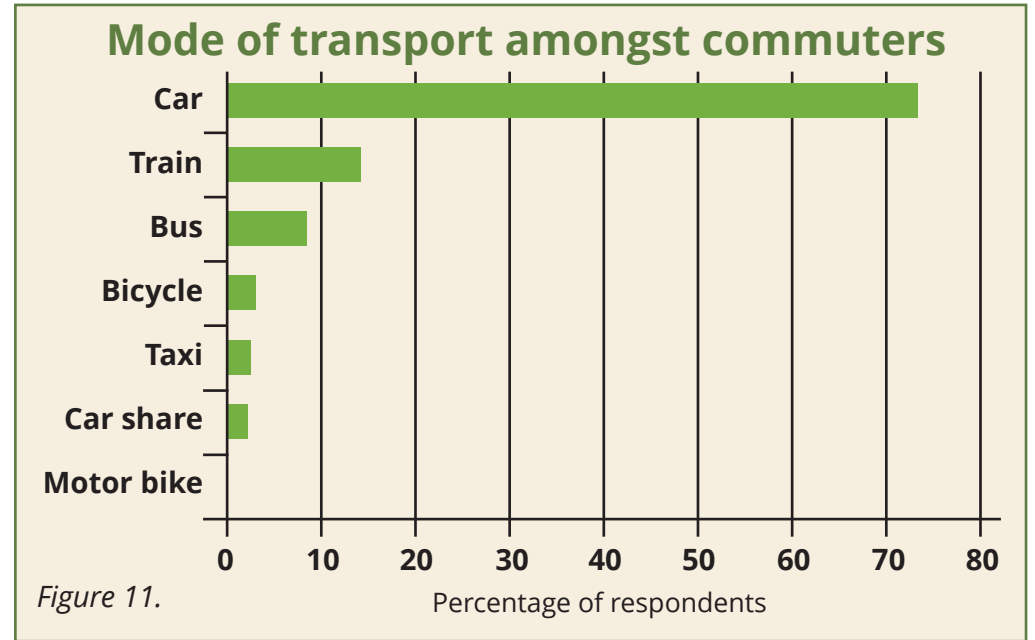


Figure 11.

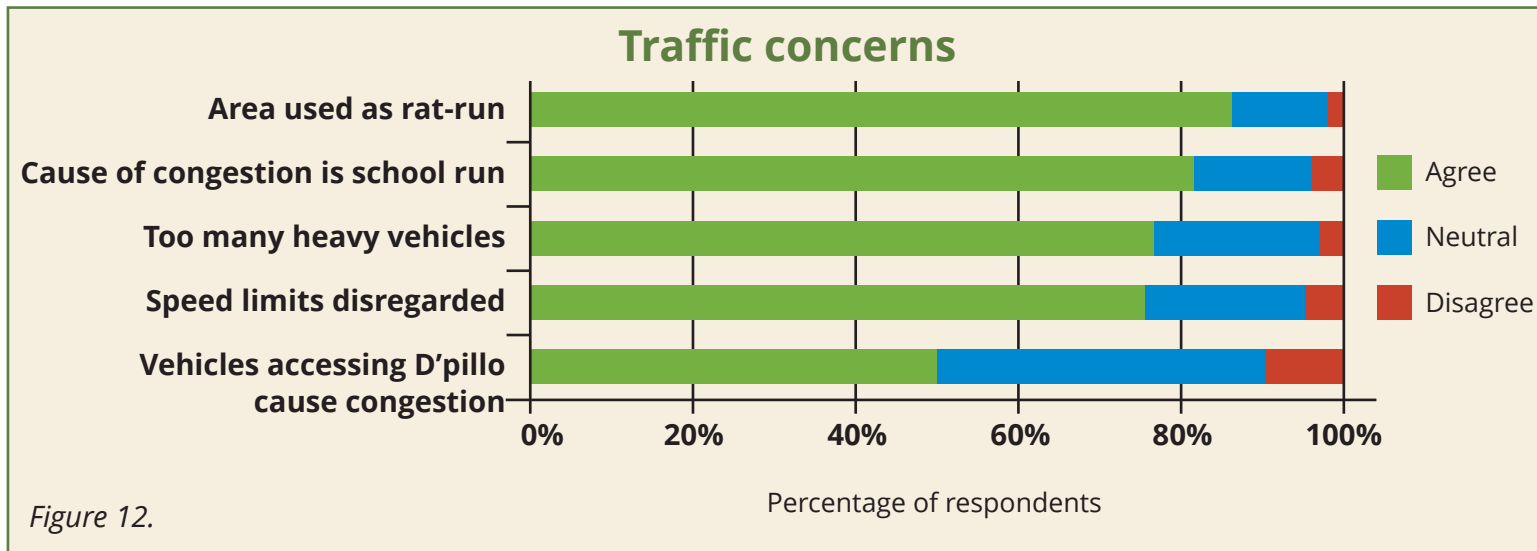
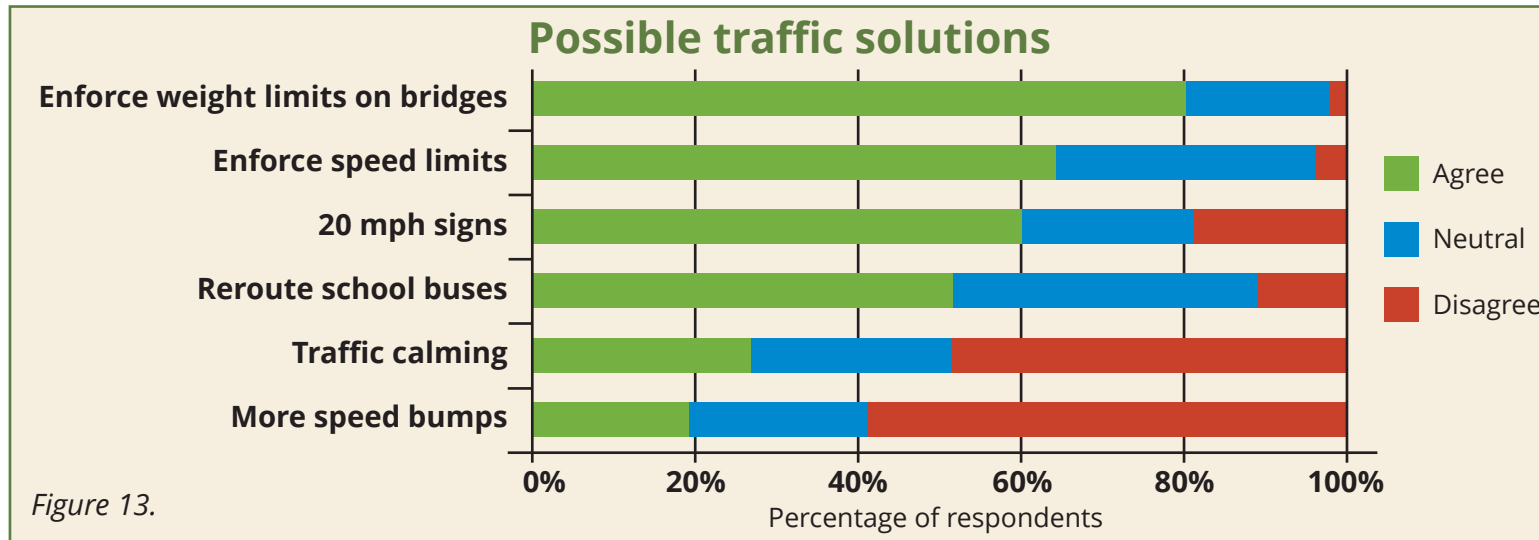


Figure 12.

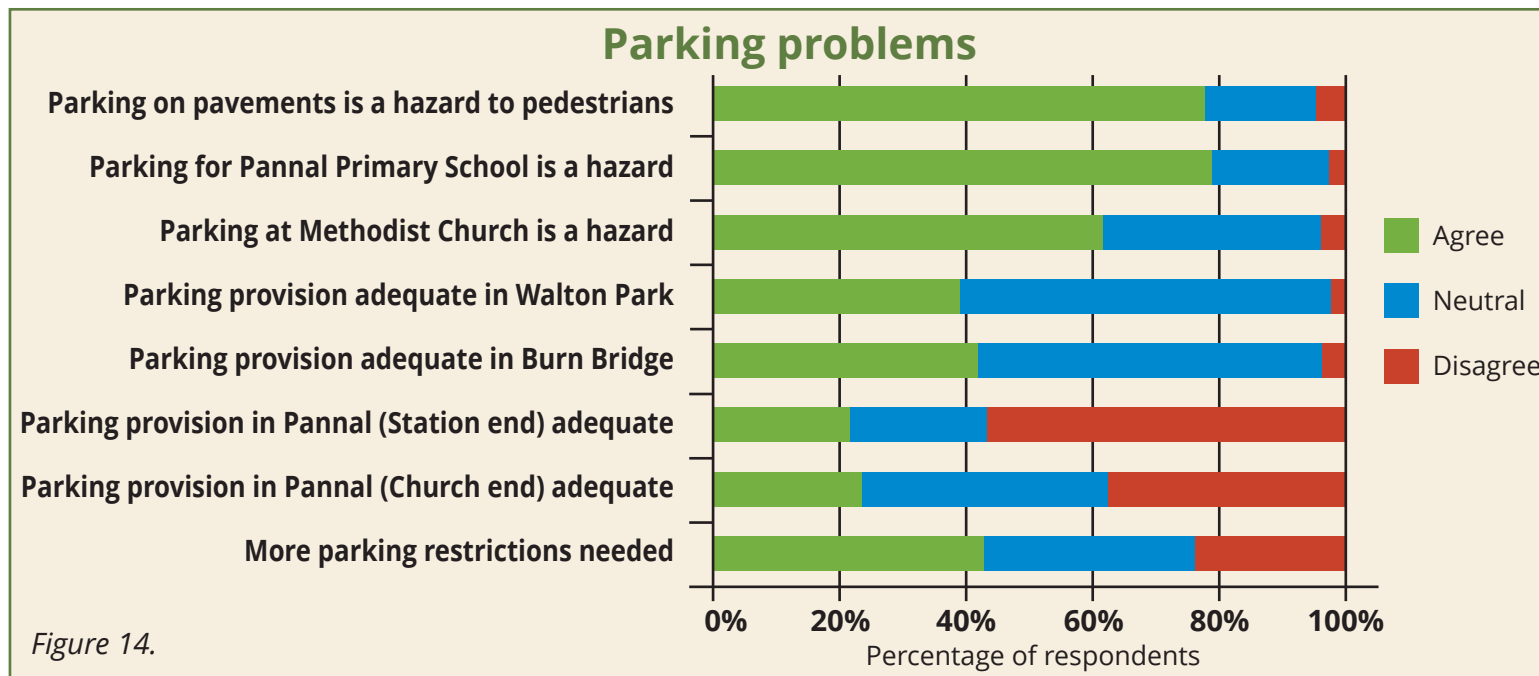
“Life in the village depends on what happens elsewhere in the area. Rat runs develop because of inadequate or badly planned access roads.”

When asked for suggested solutions to traffic problems:



When asked about parking, residents of Burn Bridge and Walton Park felt their parking provision was adequate. The main problems are seen to be in Pannal village.

However introducing restrictions on parking brought mixed reactions. Permits for local residents were favoured by **42%**, restrictions by **45%**. Widely favoured were creative solutions like 'Park and Stride' for Pannal Primary School (**76%**).



Parking solutions

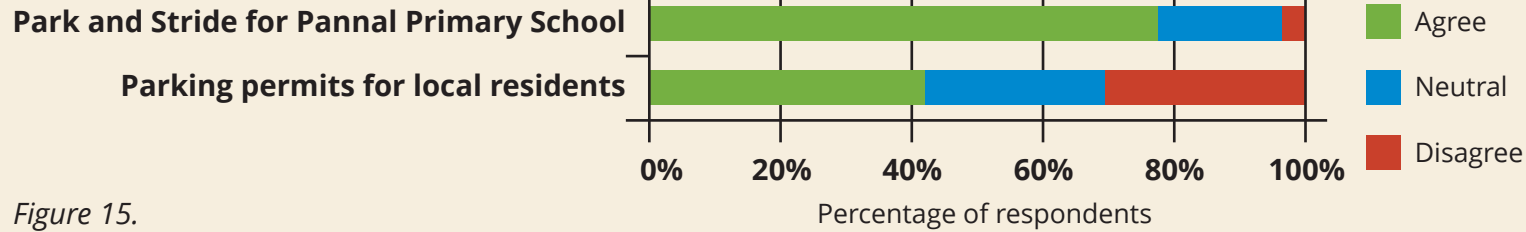


Figure 15.

Complaints about road maintenance are not confined to the Pannal area where **87%** agreed that maintenance is inadequate even though the local authority is seen by **56%** as quick to respond to reports of dangerous potholes. For Walton Park the primary road maintenance issue is gritting in winter and for Burn Bridge, the poor drainage on Yew Tree Lane.

Major Concerns

The major concerns for Pannal Area residents related to

- **Traffic, parking and road maintenance**
- **Environment, housing and development**

PUBLIC TRANSPORT, WALKING, CYCLING, DISABLED ACCESS



When asked how often public transport is used by local residents:

How often do you use public transport?

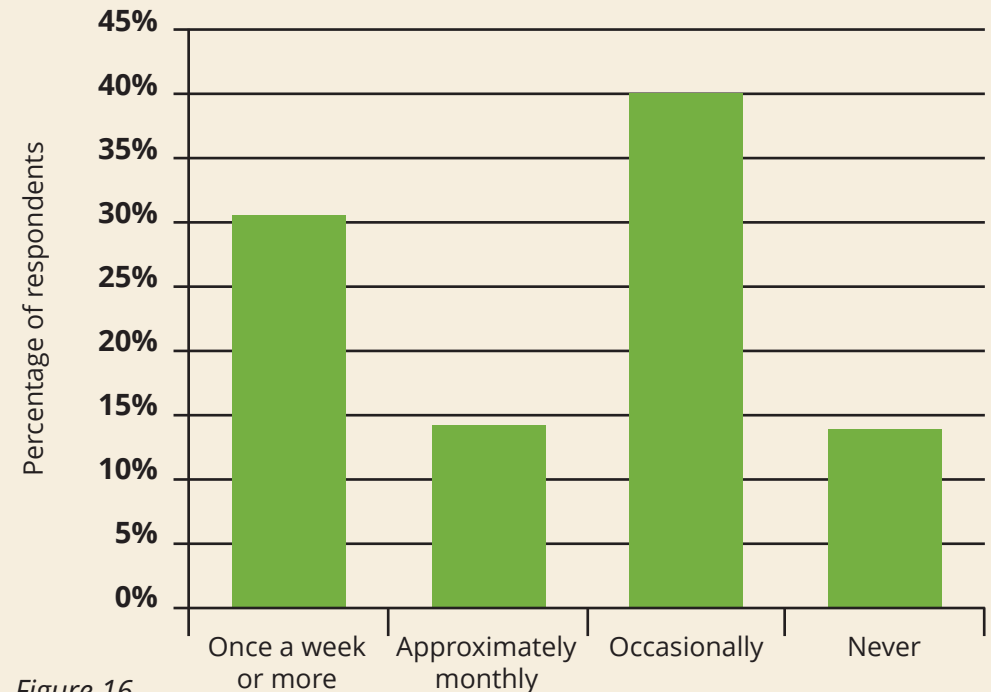
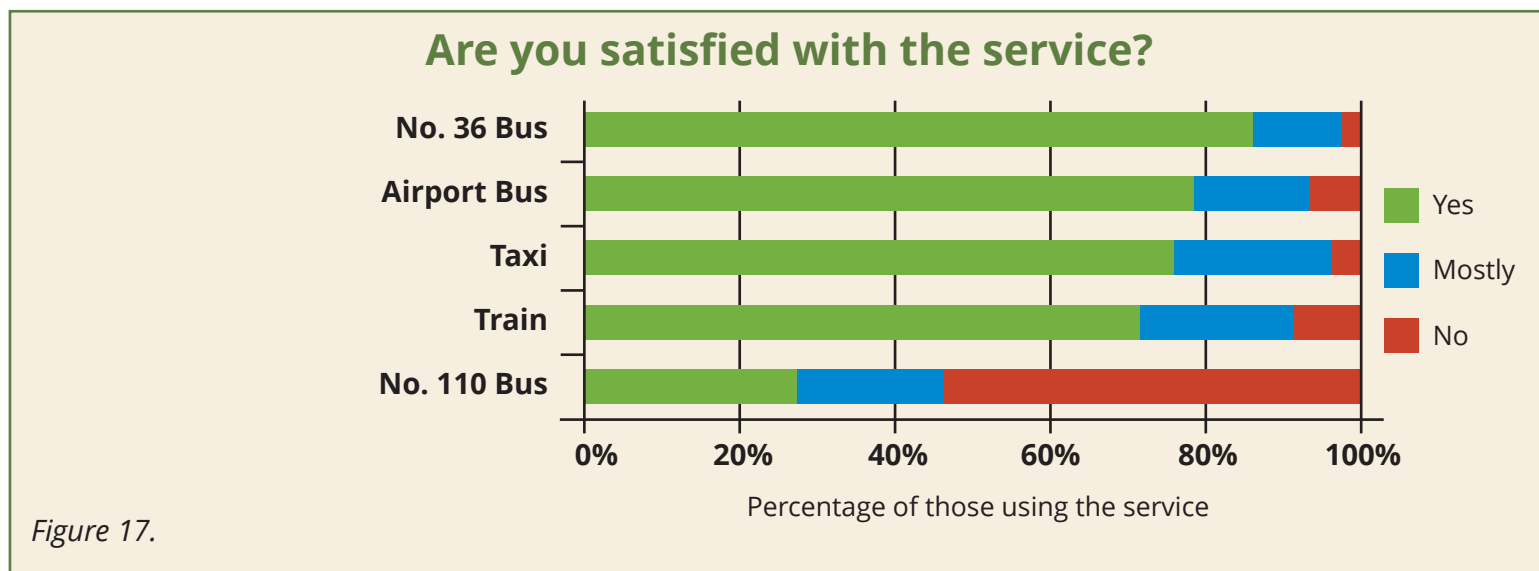


Figure 16.

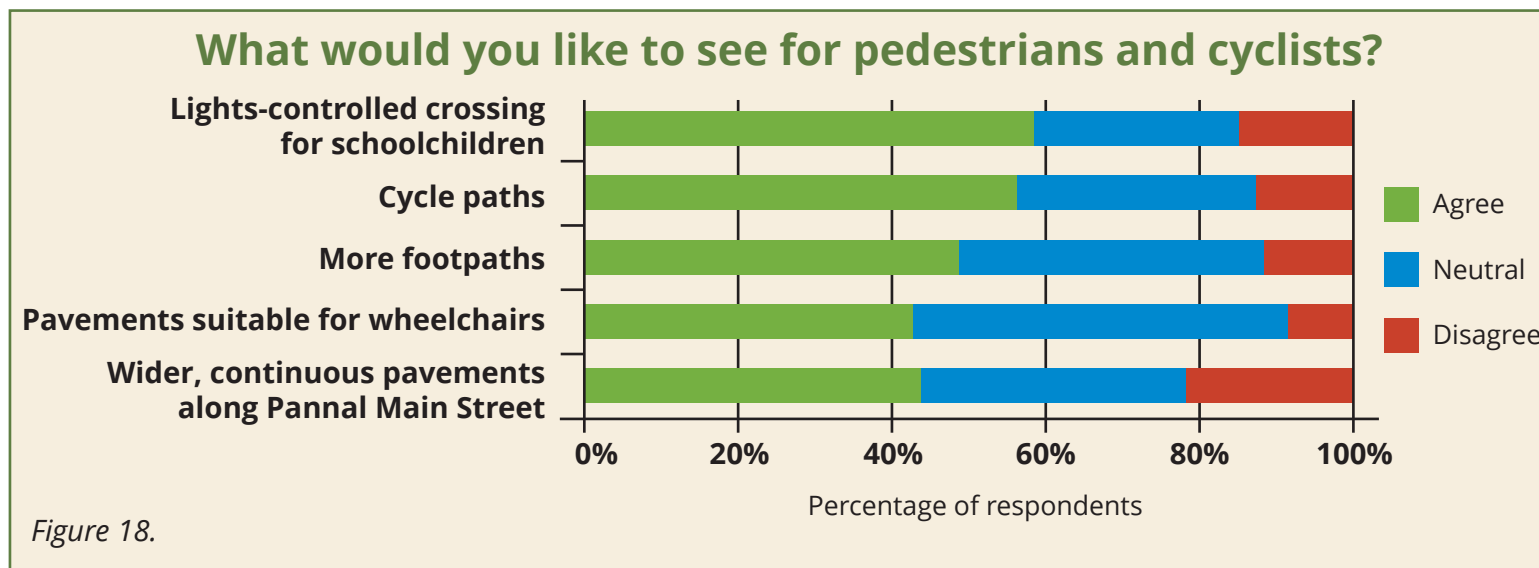
The most used public transport modes were the train (88%), the No. 36 bus (74%) and taxi (65%).

These were rated:



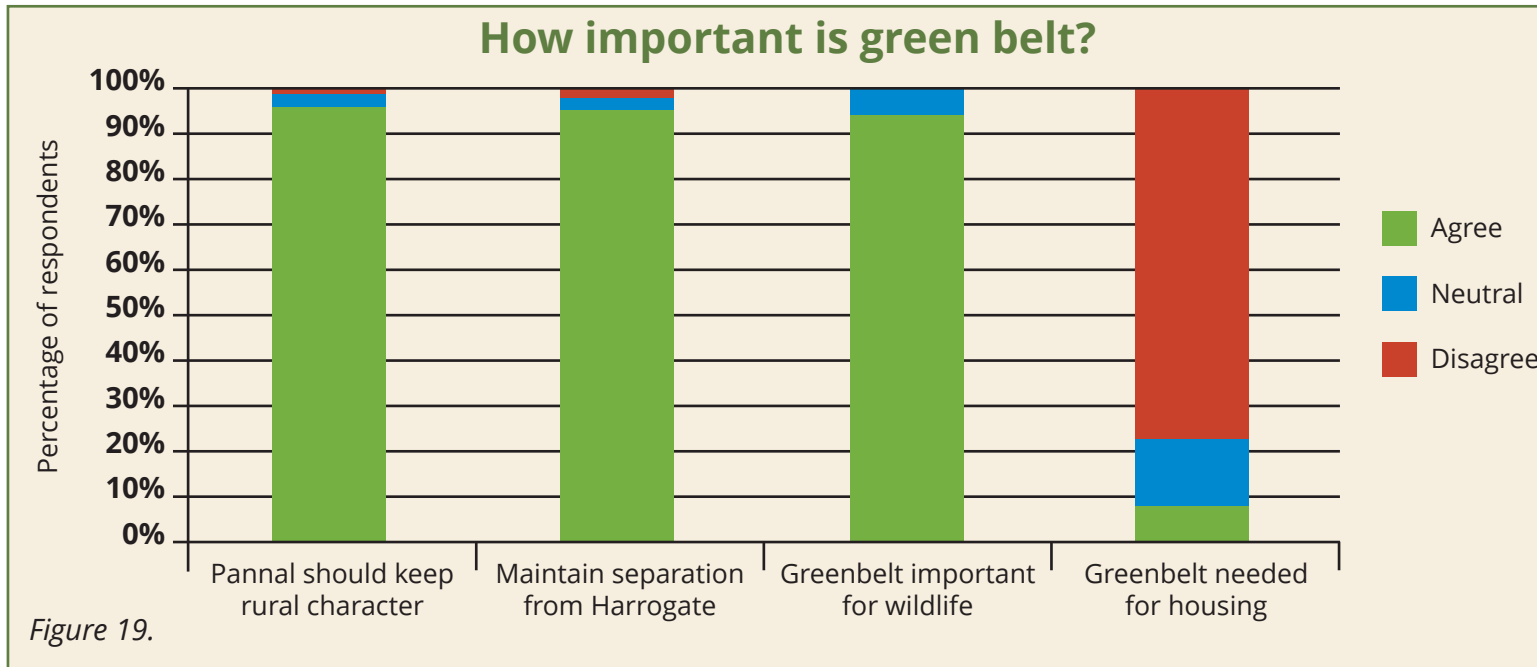
There was support for improving the local areas for pedestrians, cyclists and mobility vehicles.

The following support for suggestions was:

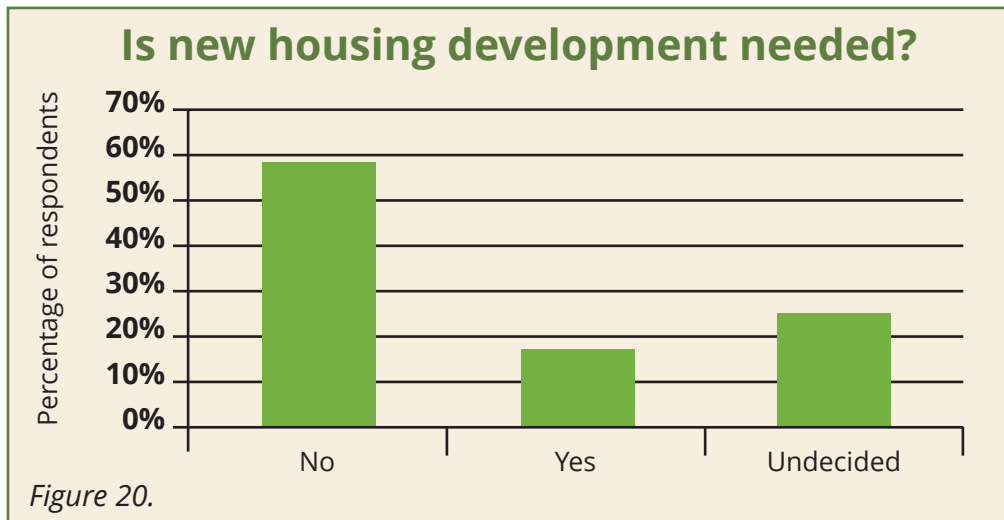


ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

There was overwhelming support for preserving Green Belt and SLA (Special Landscape Area) status land surrounding the Pannal Area:

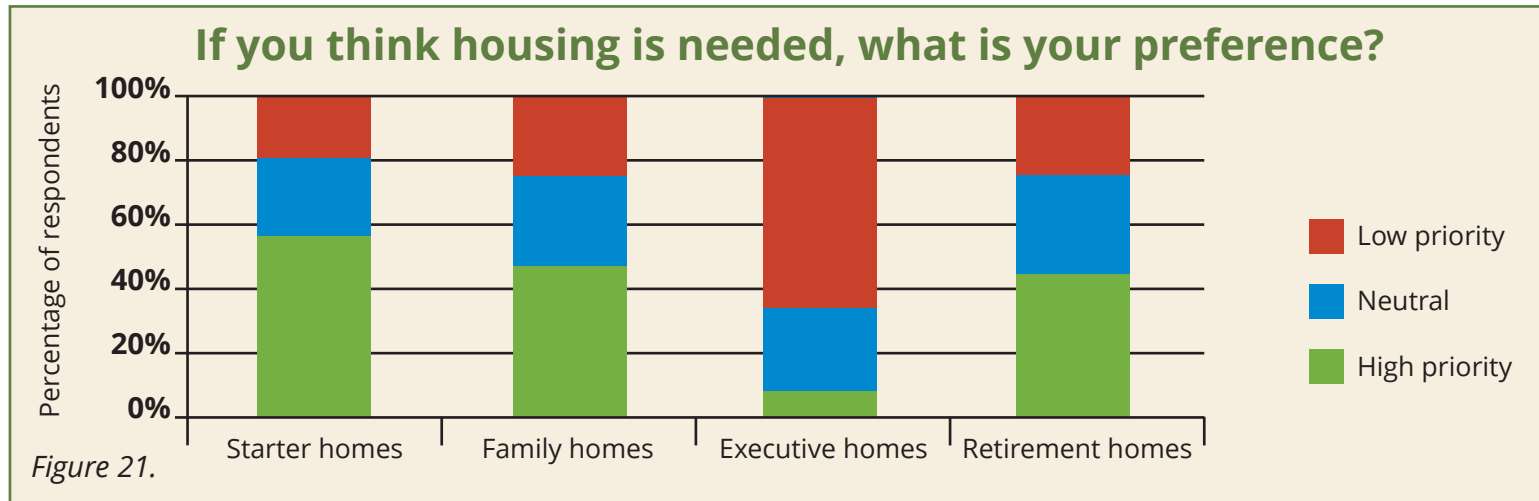


When asked whether new housing development was needed:



“What I like about living here: being a village community close to yet separate from Harrogate.”

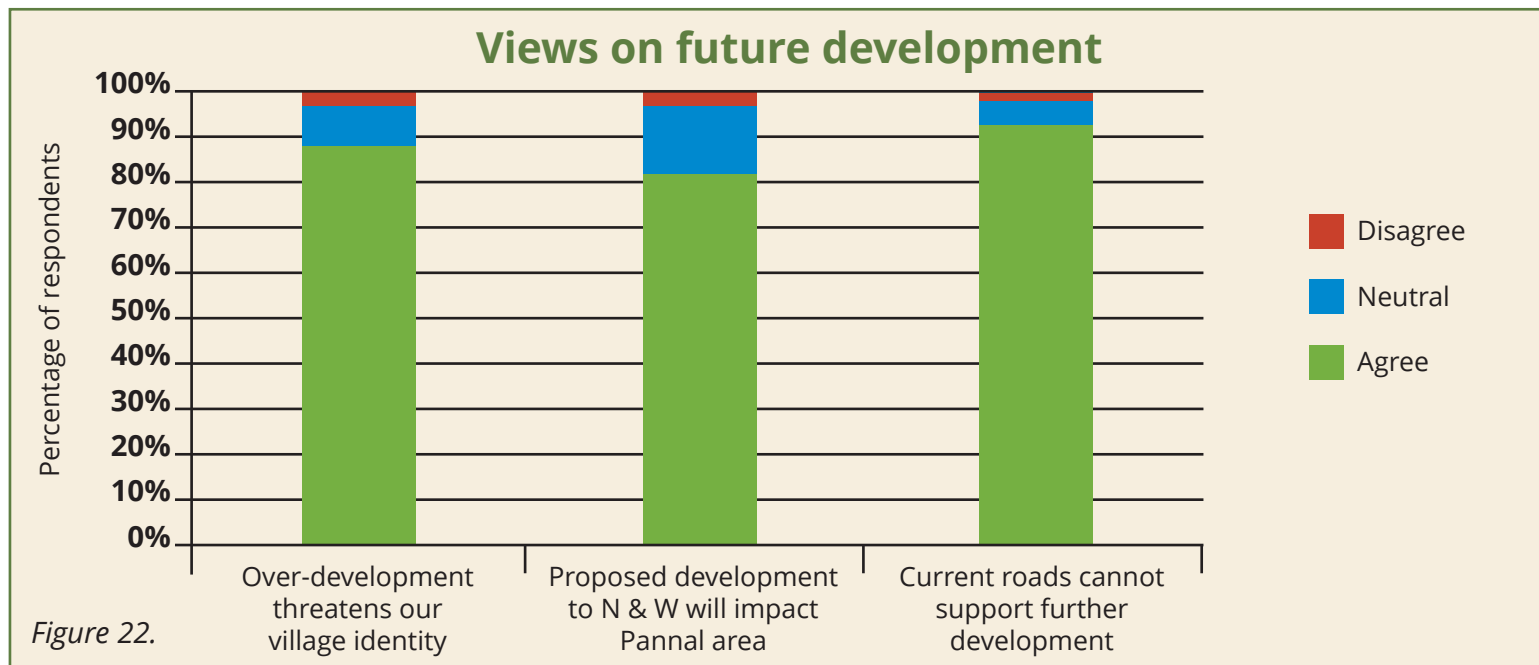
Of the minority who thought new housing was needed their preference is:



Only **8%** of respondents reported a family member having to move due to lack of suitable or affordable housing, most examples (**58%**) in the last 5 years.



Further development was widely opposed:



“I would like to see nature conservation and preservation to be given priority i.e. cleaning up Beck - protecting wildlife areas - stop encroaching developments.”

COMMUNITY ACTION, COMMUNITY NEEDS

Traffic congestion, parking issues, transport inadequacies and development threats are generally seen as imposed or created from outside the local area so are not easy problems to resolve.

However, when asked what further facilities they would like to see in the Pannal area for specific age groups, local residents had plenty of ideas.

Clearly, the suggestions made in response to this questionnaire are valuable pointers and are reflected in the Action Plan. However, there can be no promise of implementation in the current economic conditions of the public sector.

For toddlers, parents suggested a children's centre (such as the previous Sure Start centre), a coffee shop to provide a meeting point, a toy library and music/dancing sessions.



For young people, sports facilities were the top choice, including tennis courts, football all-weather pitch, improved cycling facilities. Also suggested were a youth club, quiz nights and computer games, and more places in Beavers, cubs, scouts and brownies.

Adults called for art classes and associated sales and exhibition facilities, allotments, sports facilities, especially tennis, bowls, cycling, yoga and dancing and also a local pub or bar to retire to after activities.

Suggestions for elderly, disabled or lonely residents focussed on the need for contact and conversation where the main suggestion was visiting by volunteers and neighbours; also identified was support for attending appointments or for light tasks around the home and garden. Suggestions included a little red shuttle bus and setting up a rota of local volunteers.

Asked why people do not participate in existing activities:

If you do not take part in local activities, why not?

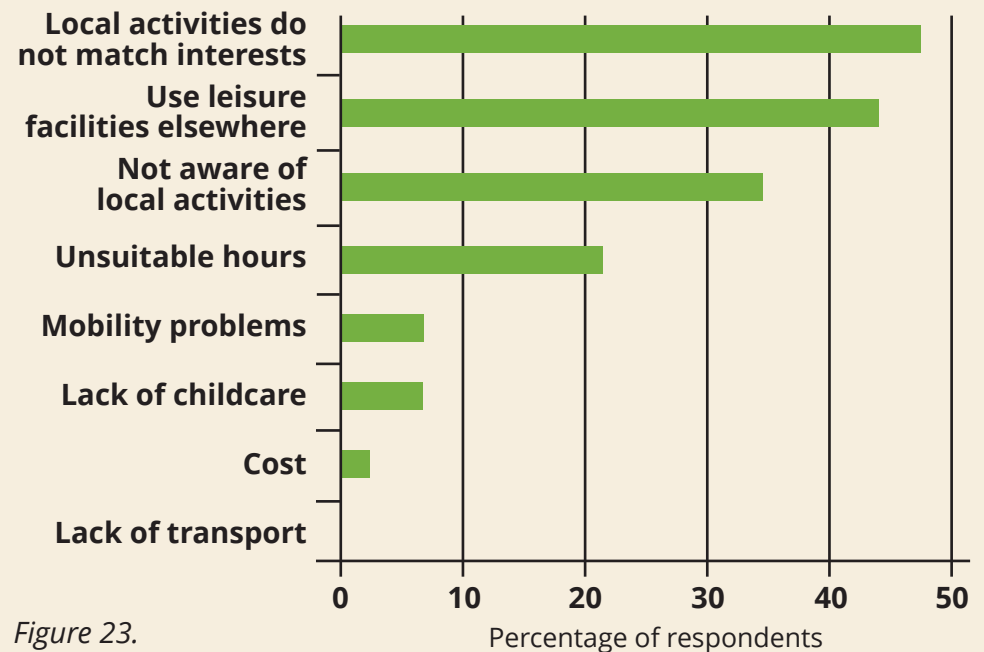
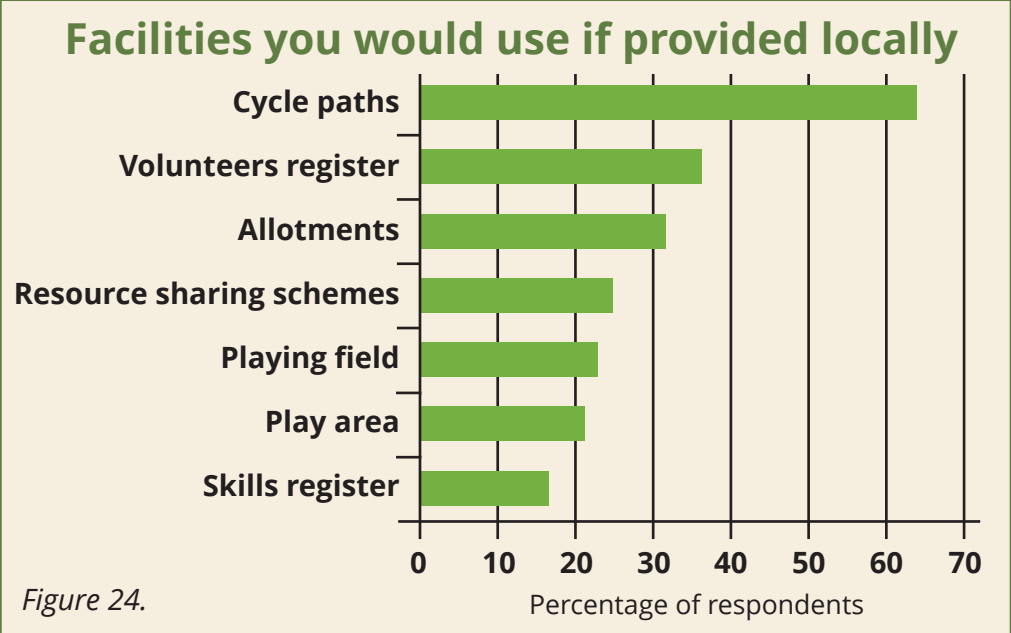


Figure 23.

When asked what would help them join in activities several people felt more awareness was needed, for example by means of a local newsletter or web site. Some suggested more evening and weekend activities.

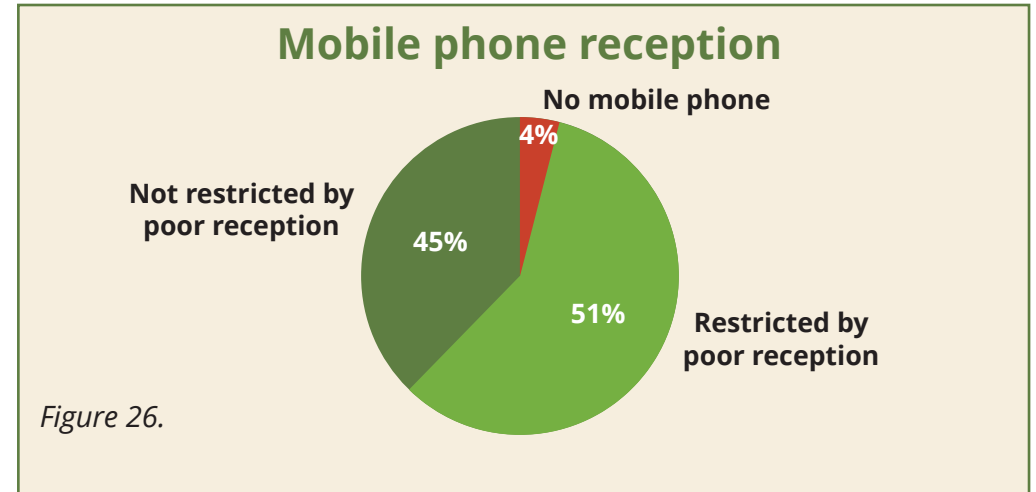
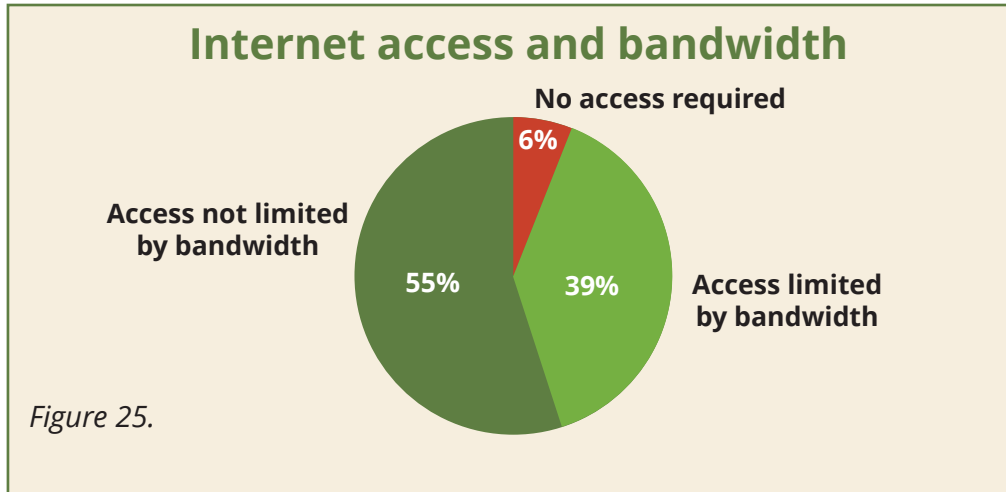


When prompted with specific suggestions for possible future facilities, priorities were:



COMMUNICATION NETWORKS

Low bandwidth was seen as a problem in the area when using the Internet and mobile phones.



Finding out what is happening in and around the Pannal area has multiple sources:

- 38% from family, friends, neighbours network**
- 38% from Pannal Village Society newsletter and emails**
- 32% from Harrogate Advertiser local section**
- 25% from St. Robert's Church newsletter, the Link**
- 20% from the Post Office/shop notices**
- 15% from the Village Hall notice boards and website**
- 5% from the Methodist Church newsletter**
- 4% through social media**

Most people (**63%**) feel they have enough access to information on local events and organisations.

FINALLY

When asked for any further comments, residents responded with a set of diverse and valuable suggestions that will help inform the details of an immediate Action Plan and the Community-led Plan that will inform future decision-making.

However, in the current economic climate, it must be stressed that there can be no promise of early implementation.

PANNAL AREA COMMUNITY-LED PLAN RESULTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S QUESTIONNAIRE

Alongside the Questionnaire distributed to all households, young people (**7 – 17 years**) were invited to complete a separate online questionnaire. In support of this, the Head Teacher of Pannal Primary School kindly set aside time in class for pupils to complete the questionnaire. Overall **58 responses** were received from Young People living within the area. Hopefully others felt that their views were adequately represented in their household's Questionnaire.

Of the respondents, **22%** live in Burn Bridge; **65%** live in Pannal; **12%** live in Walton Park – a distribution similar to that of the household Questionnaire responses. The age distribution was **58%** aged **7-9 years** and **42%** in the **10-13 age range**.

ACTIVITIES THE YOUNG PEOPLE CURRENTLY PURSUE

Young people were asked what they like to do in their spare time and were prompted with a range of activities and asked how far they travel – hoping that this would identify activities that might be provided locally. Mainly young people take part in activities locally and only for drama, do most travel to a nearby town.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

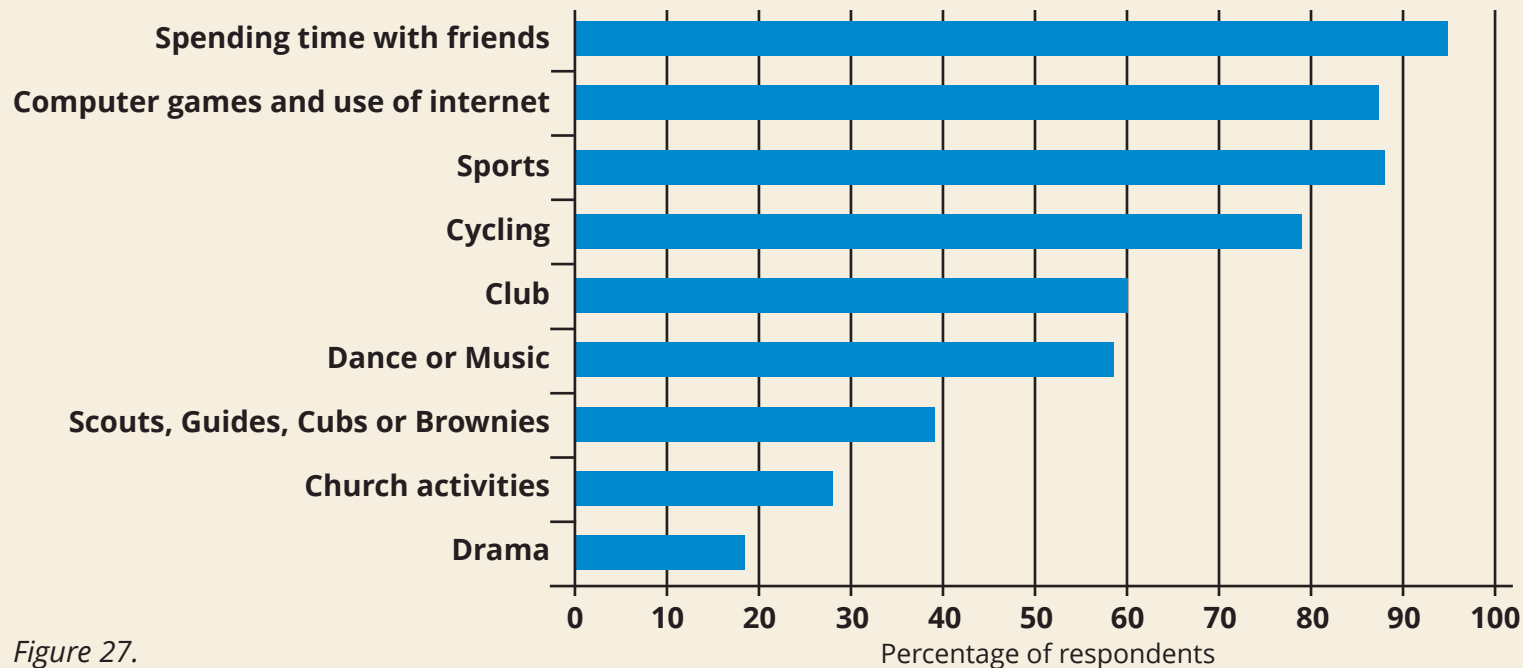


Figure 27.



The Questionnaire also asked young people to list any other activities they take part in, and whether these were local or not. From the **58** replies, here are the most frequent responses, dominated by swimming.



Beyond these **7** activities (*Figure 28*), the breadth of other activities undertaken is most impressive. **18** were mentioned: running, art, badminton, golf, sailing, skateboarding, karate, martial arts, table tennis, walking, fencing, Chinese, piano, Irish dancing, going to park, cycling, dance and shopping.

What other activities do you take part in?

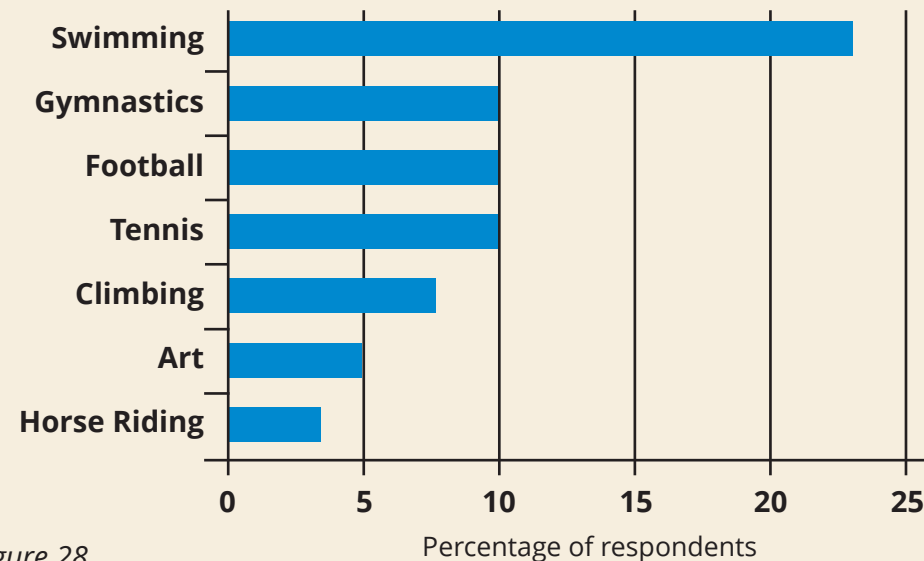


Figure 28.

FURTHER FACILITIES IN THE AREA

What further facilities would you like to have locally?

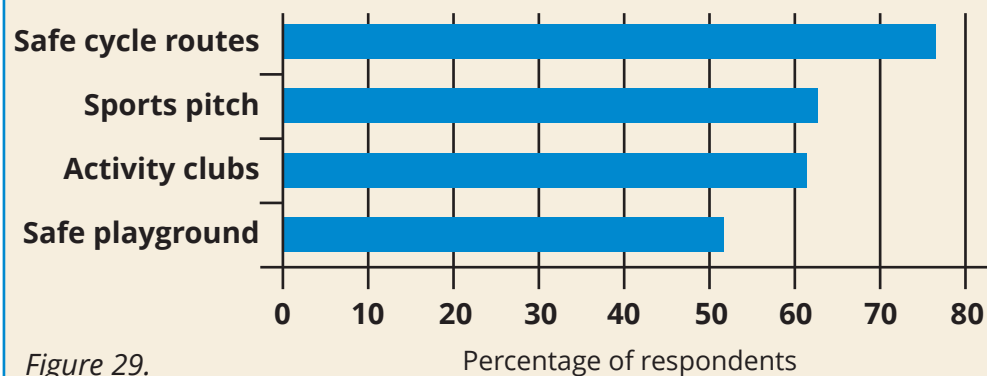


Figure 29.



When given free rein, young people called for a wide variety of opportunities. A swimming pool was mentioned by **9**, a climbing wall by **6**, an art club by **4**, dance club by **3** and drama club by **2**. There were many minority suggestions ranging from a high ropes course to a lake for sailing.

TRANSPORT

When asked how transport could be improved for them, **6** mentioned buses - either more or better buses or more bus stops. Less traffic was a common suggestion.

LIKES AND DISLIKES

Generally young people like living here and appreciate the friendly community, the surrounding fields and the quiet, safe, village atmosphere.

The dislikes were dominated by the traffic, but also mentioned were dog and horse poo, litter, and teenage boys spitting. Concern about traffic under a number of the question areas is in total agreement with the household Questionnaire Results and it features again in the School Project described below.

HAVING A SAY

A majority of **3:2** felt they did not have enough say. A wide variety of suggestions were offered to improve things: there were various suggestions for family forums, child councils, for monthly meetings at the hall and for children to have a vote.

INTERACTIVE PLANNING ACTIVITY BY PANNAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

For the end of term project, the School looked at "Our Area" from a variety of perspectives, using different subject areas, such as environmental challenges, understanding traffic issues and nature walks.

The finished work was displayed at the Exhibition of Questionnaire Results at the Scout Hut on 21 July 2015, together with written pieces and artwork.



In addition, a very large scale map of the area covering Walton Park, Pannal and Burn Bridge was studied with year-group teachers in sessions facilitated by Rural Action Yorkshire. The young people highlighted their likes, dislikes and aspirations, placing flags at key points on the map.

Some of the very thoughtful comments that were made include:

- **more footpaths, a bird hide, a mountain bike trail in Quarry Woods and clean up the litter & dog mess**
- **put some benches on the Village Green**
- **at the Recreation Ground: tennis court, basketball pitch, netball pitch, community garden, but do something about the dog mess problem**
- **build a bridge over Crimple Beck to Crimple Hall for the Ringway footpath**
- **get rid of the Dunlopillo factory building, it ruins Pannal**
- **36 bus service is good**



Of course, these and the comments from the household Questionnaire are largely in tune, which is reassuring as we all look to take forward the Community-led Action Plan for our Community's long term future.



The Community-led Plan – How we did it

In autumn 2013, Pannal Village Society agreed to set up a Steering Group to prepare a Community-led Plan for the Pannal area including Burn Bridge and Walton Park. The Village Hall team was invited to join the project and gladly accepted.

We, the Steering Group, started in earnest in January 2014, talking to Rural Action Yorkshire, who have been hugely supportive throughout, and to local organisations within the village. We organised a public meeting to raise awareness. A “Have your Say” leaflet was then distributed to every household to get initial ideas on likes, dislikes and what improvements residents would like to see. Then, with the support of local organisations and residents for a Community-led Plan, a grant application was made to the Big Lottery Fund. This was successful and a grant of £6135 was awarded in October 2014.

We set about preparing a professional and user-friendly questionnaire which could be completed either in hard copy or online. With the help of 20 volunteers, 900 questionnaires were hand delivered to every household. Amazingly, a near 50% response rate was achieved, giving us robust evidence on which to build the Community-led Plan.

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